

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-6, and please add new claims 46-61 as follows:

1-45. (Cancelled)

46. (New) A set of cutting blades for use in connection with a hand-held cutting tool having a motor, a casing with a support configured to carry a pair of fixed cutting blades in a spaced-apart relationship, and a reciprocating cutting member that pivots about a transverse axis to reciprocate between the fixed cutting blades, the set of cutting blades comprising:

a first blade including—

a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;

a first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces;

a first shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the first shear face, the first shear edge having a first section and a second section different than the first section;

a second shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body;

a first mount configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the first section of the first shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at a cutting zone for shearing a workpiece and the second section of the first shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone; and

a second mount configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the second section of the first shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at the cutting zone for shearing

the workpiece and the first section of the first shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone; and

a second blade including—

- a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;
- a first guide surface extending of the first and second shear faces;
- a first shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the first shear face, the first shear edge having a first section and a second section different than the first section;
- a second shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body;
- a first mount configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the first section of the first shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at the cutting zone for shearing the workpiece and the second section of the first shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone; and
- a second mount configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the second section of the first shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at the cutting zone for shearing the workpiece and the first section of the first shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone.

47. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein:

the first mount of the first blade comprises a first plurality of mounting holes; and

the second mount of the first blade comprises a second plurality of mounting holes.

48. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein:
the first mount of the first blade comprises a first plurality of mounting holes;
the second mount of the first blade comprises a second plurality of mounting holes;
the first plurality of mounting holes comprise a first hole; and
the second plurality of mounting holes comprise the first hole.
49. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein the first blade further comprises:
a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;
a third shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the first shear face; and
a fourth shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the second shear face, the third and fourth shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body.
50. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein the first blade further comprises:
a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;
a third shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the first shear face, the third shear edge having a first section and a second section different than the first section;
a fourth shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the second shear face, the third and fourth shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body;
a third mount configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the first section of the third shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at the cutting zone for shearing the workpiece and the

second section of the third shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone;
and

a fourth mount configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the second section of the third shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at the cutting zone for shearing the workpiece and the first section of the third shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone.

51. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein the first mount of the first blade comprises a first plurality of mounting holes, wherein the second mount of the first blade comprises a second plurality of mounting holes, and wherein the first blade further comprises:

- a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;
- a third shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the first shear face, the third shear edge having a first section and a second section different than the first section;
- a fourth shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the second shear face, the third and fourth shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body;
- a third plurality of holes configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the first section of the third shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at the cutting zone for shearing the workpiece and the second section of the third shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone;
- a fourth plurality of holes configured for attachment to the support of the casing such that the second section of the third shear edge is positioned adjacent to the reciprocating cutting member and at the cutting zone for shearing the

workpiece and the first section of the third shear edge is spaced apart from the cutting zone;

the first and second plurality of holes are spaced apart along a first line; and

the third and fourth plurality of holes are spaced apart along a second line generally parallel to and offset from the first line.

52. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein the first guide surface is flat to lie flush against the face of the workpiece while the workpiece is sheared.

53. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein:

the first mount of the first blade comprises a first mounting hole and a second mounting hole;

the second mount of the first blade comprises the second mounting hole and a third mounting hole; and

the second mounting hole is at least approximately equidistant from the first and third mounting holes.

54. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein the first and second blades are interchangeable with one another.

55. (New) The cutting blades of claim 46 wherein the first mounts of the first and second blades are positioned such that when the first and second blades are connected to the support of the casing via the first mounts the first shear edges of the first and second blades are parallel to one another and define a gap sized to receive the reciprocating cutting member.

56. (New) A cutting blade for use in connection with a hand-held cutting tool having a motor, a casing configured to carry a pair of fixed cutting blades in a spaced-apart

relationship, and a reciprocating cutting member that pivots about a transverse axis to reciprocate between the fixed cutting blades, the cutting blade comprising:

- a body having spaced-apart first and second shear faces, the first and second shear faces defining a thickness of the body;
- a first guide surface extending between the first and second shear faces;
- a first shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the first shear face, the first shear edge having a first section and a second section different than the first section;
- a second shear edge at the junction of the first guide surface and the second shear face, the first and second shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body; and
- a hole in the body extending between the first and second shear faces, the hole being configured to interface with the casing such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the first shear face facing inward and only the first section of the first shear edge positioned at a cutting zone for shearing a workpiece, the hole being further positioned such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the second shear face facing inward and only the second section of the first shear edge positioned at the cutting zone.

57. (New) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein:

- the hole comprises a first mounting hole;
- the blade further comprises second and third mounting holes extending between the first and second shear faces; and
- the second and third mounting holes are at least approximately equidistant from the first mounting hole.

58. (New) The cutting blade of claim 56, further comprising:

- a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;

a third shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the first shear face; and

a fourth shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the second shear face, the third and fourth shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body.

59. (New) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein the hole comprises a first mounting hole, and wherein the cutting blade further comprises:

a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;

a third shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the first shear face, the third shear edge having a first section and a second section different than the first section;

a fourth shear edge at the junction of the second guide surface and the second shear face, the third and fourth shear edges being generally parallel to and spaced apart from one another by the thickness of the body;

a second hole in the body extending between the first and second shear faces, the second hole being configured to interface with the casing such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the first shear face facing inward and only the first section of the third shear edge positioned at the cutting zone, the second hole being further positioned such that the blade can be attached to the casing with the second shear face facing inward and only the second section of the third shear edge positioned at the cutting zone.

60. (New) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein:

the hole comprises a first mounting hole;

the cutting blade further comprises a second guide surface opposite the first guide surface and extending between the first and second shear faces;

the cutting blade further comprises second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth mounting holes extending between the first and second shear faces;
the first, second, and third mounting holes define a first line;
the fourth, fifth, and sixth mounting holes define a second line generally parallel to and offset from the first line;
the second and third mounting holes are at least approximately equidistant from the first mounting hole; and
the fifth and sixth mounting holes are at least approximately equidistant from the fourth mounting hole.

61. (New) The cutting blade of claim 56 wherein the first guide surface is flat to lie flush against the face of the workpiece while the workpiece is sheared.